

In re Patent Application of:
LUE CHEE LIP
Serial No. **09/988,907**
Filing Date: **NOVEMBER 20, 2001**

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the present application. Independent Claims 1, 12, 21 and 32 have been amended to more clearly define the present invention over the cited prior art references. The claim amendments and arguments supporting patentability of the claims are presented in detail below.

I. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 21 and 32 over the Dietz et al. patent. The present invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a method for processing a visitor request over an intranet for a visitor visiting an organization. The method comprises filling-out and submitting a visitor request form over the intranet within the organization, and creating a visitor database on the visitor based upon the filled-out visitor request form. A visitor approval request message is transmitted via e-mail to at least one evaluator within the organization if approval is required. The visitor approval request message has a hyperlink to the filled-out visitor request form. An approval recommendation is submitted by the at least one evaluator via e-mail for updating the visitor database.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the visitor request is for a visitor visiting an organization, and that the filling-out and submitting of a visitor request form over the intranet is performed within the organization. In accordance with the present invention, the e-mail messages are easily transmitted and received over the intranet between

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employees within the same organization or company for processing the filled-out visitor request form. In addition, the hyperlinks embedded within the e-mail messages allow the evaluators to access the filled-out visitor request form to provide a user friendly and efficient method of distributing and validating the filled-out visitor request form within the same organization or company.

Amended independent method Claim 12 is similar to amended independent method Claim 1 but further recites that the visitor database includes classification of the visitor as a regular visitor or a foreign visitor, and that a visitor badge is issued based upon a validated filled-out visitor request form.

Amended independent device Claim 21 is directed to an intranet for processing a visitor request form and is similar to amended independent method Claim 1. Independent device Claim 21 has been further amended to recite that "at least one computing device comprises a plurality of software modules" to avoid any potential 35 U.S.C §101 issues.

Amended independent device Claim 32 is directed to a computer-readable medium and is similar to amended independent method Claim 1.

Referring now to the Dietz et al. patent, a distributed computer network configuration to aid an organization in managing engagements of non-employee workers who are supplied by a vendor is disclosed. The organization maintains a computer system that is linked to a vendor's computer system. Electronic communication allows for sharing of information between the organization's computer system and the vendor's computer system. A database management system is

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provided for accessing a database to create, modify, store and access non-employee workers, work assignments, time reports, and possibly electronic versions of employment agreements.

In particular, Dietz et al. discloses that the distributed computer network has various nodes for communicating and sharing information between the organization and one or more vendors. Reference is directed to column 5, lines 23-25 of Dietz et al. and to FIG. 2, which provides:

"The organization's LAN 205 may be linked via a wide area network (WAN) 225, such as the Internet, to a computer system 230 maintained by the vendor." (Emphasis added.)

Reference is also directed to column 2, lines 31-43 of Dietz et al., which provides:

"According to another aspect of the present invention, an engaging manager is responsible for requesting a non-employee worker who is suitable to fill a particular position. To find a suitable non-employee worker, the engaging manager may send an e-mail request to the vendor. Upon receipt of the e-mail request, the vendor may compile a list of all qualified and available non-employee workers. The engaging manager may then request a non-employee worker from the list and, via e-mail, seek the approval of a supervisor for engaging the non-employee worker." (Emphasis added.)

In other words, Dietz et al. discloses that a request for a visitor or non-employee worker is made by the organization over the Internet to the vendor supplying the

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visitor or non-employee. This is in sharp contrast to the claimed invention, where the visitor request form is filled-out and submitted within the organization over the intranet. As the Examiner is aware, the intranet is a private network of various computers within an organization, and is distinct from the Internet.

Accordingly, it is submitted that amended independent Claim 1 is patentable over Dietz et al. Amended independent Claims 12, 21 and 32 are similar to amended independent Claim 1. Therefore, it is submitted that these claims are also patentable over Dietz et al. In view of the patentability of the amended independent Claims 1, 12, 21 and 32, it is submitted that their dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features of the invention, are also patentable. These dependent claims require no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments provided herein, it is submitted that all the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL W. TAYLOR
Reg. No. 43,182
Allen, Dyer, Doppelt, Milbrath
& Gilchrist, P.A.
255 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 1401
Post Office Box 3791
Orlando, Florida 32802
407-841-2330

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